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Hello --- My name is Andy Jones, a resident along with my family, living in Whatcom County. My first born son was born in Skagit County. I currently work in Snohomish County. I am honored to add my voice to the rising chorus of citizens who are concerned about, and protesting the construction of a coal export terminal at Cherry Point. I have three points of emphasis that I would like to share with you today. (509) 429-2384

Point #1 --- Jobs

According to initial environmental studies by Gateway Pacific, the terminal could generate an estimated 294 direct jobs, and 569 jobs indirectly associated with export pier operations. It could generate up to 12 million dollars in local purchases, and 8.1 million dollars could be collected in taxes during initial construction. Those estimates are the upside of the project, and have excited the imagination of many. However, for our sake and that of our children, this project must be considered in a broader perspective. Additional studies, such as the one done by David Eichenhal and others show the construction and operation of the terminal could just as easily result in a net loss of jobs to our area instead. The businesses and professional people that are, and would be attracted to Skagit and Whatcom counties because of our traditional culture of environmental stewardship, recreation, and natural beauty may very well relocate or not consider our area, after word that hundreds of coal cars, with associated noise, dust pollution, inconvenience to traffic and limiting access to coastal areas, would be traveling through our towns and agricultural areas each day, all heading to potentially the largest coal exporting terminal in North America. We also need to consider the projected negative impacts on the marine resource economy, including food resources, such as herring, salmon, and shellfish that currently provide a livelihood to hundreds of our local families.

Point # 2 Recreation and Tourism

I have sailed past the Westshore Coal Export Terminal near the Tsawwassen ferry terminal just north of us in British Columbia. Even on a sunny day, it's looming presence, the tug-assisted giant tankers maneuvering in and out of the piers and channels, the 24-7 noise of the elevators and heavy equipment, the lights from

the towers, the mountains of coal stored on the sprawling site, and the miles of coal cars lined up to be unloaded give off the feeling of dark scenes from the land of Mordor. Fellow citizens, if you haven't seen this sight, you may not be able to fully imagine what the proposed terminal and surrounding properties would look like, both from land and from sea, right in our back yard. Just south of Cherry Point is the Lummi Indian Nation, and just north is community of Birch Bay. Just across the straits are the San Juan Islands and surrounding waterways, which for over a hundred years have drawn vacationers, boaters, businesses, and tourists from all points of the planet, to their beauty and unique island and marine ecosystems. Protect the magic of the San Juan Islands --- a world class resource that would be dramatically and irrecoverably diminished by the presence of the Gateway Pacific Terminal site, and the dominance of the associated coal tanker traffic.

Point # 3 The Future for our Children

I am a long time educator --- a science teacher, a counselor, an administrator and board member, a citizen who has also worked as a logger, a builder, and commercial fisherman. I have served my community in many different ways throughout my adult life. However, my duties as a father are the prime motivation for taking my stand against the Pacific Gateway Terminal at Cherry Point. The project defies common sense, and as mentioned earlier, potentially economic sense. To freight coal from the hills of Wyoming to Washington, then clear across the Pacific Ocean to China, an economic competitor, where it will be burned, adding an even greater burden of greenhouse gasses to our fragile atmosphere --- changing entire climates and generating more frequent weather disasters, is beyond reason. I made a promise to my children to do what I could to encourage long-term, sustainable businesses, practices and economies that will leave this precious planet of ours with the same clean air, land and waters that earlier generations have enjoyed. The short-term economic tax benefits to towns may very well be negated by the possibility we tax payers will have pay for the upgrades and maintenance needed for the anticipated surge of rail and tanker traffic, and accompanied environmental impacts. The anticipated jobs generated

by the proposed terminal may very well be negated by the loss of other, more sustainable businesses wanting to move in to our area in future years.

Our Earth is the one planet we know of in our galaxy, indeed in the vast universe, that is so perfectly situated it sustains life as we know it. We owe it to future generations to not gamble away something so good for the short term profits of a few corporations and individuals. It is our duty to be good stewards of this unique and vital heritage. No Coal Terminal On Our Coast, No Way!